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REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are now pending in the application. The specification and claims 1, 20, and 21 have been amended without introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The indication that claims 1-17 define allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-17 and 20-23 stand objected to because of a number of informalities. In response, claims 1, 20, and 21 have been amended without introduction of new matter to address the concerns expressed by the Office. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Claims 18-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to claim 18, the Office alleges that the specification does not teach the limitation of "monitoring the rendezvous points by a first master node of the first piconet to determine the slave node's first piconet presence for each of the associated payload windows; and monitoring the rendezvous points by a second master node of the second piconet to determine the slave node's second piconet presence for each of the associated payload windows."

With regard to claim 19, the Office similarly alleges that the specification does not teach the limitation of "monitoring the rendezvous points by a first master node of the first piconet to determine the slave node's first piconet presence for each of the associated payload windows."

Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, the text at page 11, lines 2-6 of the specification states, "In accordance with the present invention, the master nodes of each piconet to which the PMP belongs is informed of the PMP's switches to other piconets since the PMP switch information, that is, the rendezvous (RV) points of various piconets are associated with the PMP node itself, rather than being associated with the links of the PMP node and its master node(s)." (Emphasis added) Clearly, this is a teaching of more than one master node (e.g., a first master node and a second master node) monitoring the rendezvous points to determine the presence of a slave node that simultaneously belongs the respective piconets of those master nodes. In addition, support for presence at a rendezvous point being

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indicative of a node's presence for each of the associated payload windows may be found in the specification at, for example, page 12, paragraph 31, which states:

In accordance with embodiments of the present invention, RV points are defined per *PMP node* rather than per *link*. This allows payload windows to be unambiguously defined for each PMP, where the length of each payload window equals the distance between two RV points. In this way, a master can use the information about the beginning and end of each payload window defined for a PMP node to know when to expect the PMP node's presence.

Additional support may be found in the specification at, for example, FIG. 5B and the supporting text at paragraph 35 which states, *inter alia*, "That is, because Node 1 missed the first RV point, then Node 3 knew that Node 1 would not be in piconet P3 *for the ensuing payload window following the RV point.*" (Emphasis added) This is clear support for each RV point having an associated payload window.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that the limitations identified in the Office Action are well supported by the specification. Nonetheless, in order to expedite favorable prosecution of the application, the specification has been amended, beginning at paragraph 69, to expressly describe embodiments defined by claims 18 and 19. The language added to the specification is derived directly from the claims themselves, and is therefore not new matter at least because claims 18 and 19 were present in their existing form in the originally filed application.

With regard to claims 21-23, the Office alleges that the specification does not teach the limitation of "a memory for storing information accessible to the first node, said information being associated with switching of the PMP node to the second piconet, and said information being stored in response to the rendezvous point."

Applicants respectfully disagree. As explained above, the specification clearly teaches that a master node monitors the presence of a PMP node at an RV point, and if that presence is not detected, then the master node knows that the PMP node will not be present in the piconet for the ensuing payload window following the RV point. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand that it is inherent that the information culled from detecting the PMP node's presence or absence at the RV point would be stored in a memory in order for it to be of use to the master node during the ensuing payload window. Thus, the limitation identified by the Office with respect to claim 21 is believed to be fully supported by the specification.

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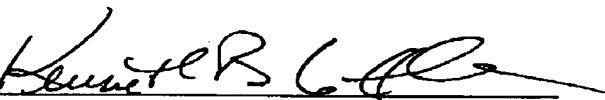
Nonetheless, in order to expedite favorable prosecution of the application, the specification has been amended, beginning at paragraph 69, to expressly describe embodiments defined by claim 21. The language added to the specification is derived directly from the claim itself, and is therefore not new matter at least because claim 21 was present in its existing form in the originally filed application.

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, claims 18-23 are believed to be in compliance with the written description requirement as set forth in the statute. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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